IMPORTANCE OF THE REGION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

SHARED, QUALITY SERVICES

ECONOMIES OF SCALE

Examples:
- School and library consolidation
- Municipal amalgamation: fire protection, town admin, water treatment
  - Waste management
  - Recreation
  - Envir. stewardship
- Rural development
- Primary health services
- Arts, culture and tourism
TRENDS

• SUPPORT FROM SENIOR GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN LOST IN A NUMBER OF AREAS – NO FORMALIZED STRUCTURE OR REPORTING MECHANISM

• IMPROVED WASTE MANAGEMENT

• INCREASED DISCUSSION AND COLLABORATION AMONG MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH THEMES

- INTEGRATED, HOLISTIC APPROACH AND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE IS CRITICAL
  - LOCAL EXAMPLES DO EXIST (IBEC, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, CAPE FREELS DEV. ASSOC.)

- LIMITED FORMAL RURAL-URBAN COLLABORATION
  - SOME EFFORT FROM GANDER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AIRPORT AUTHORITY, REPRESENTATION ON REGIONAL BOARDS

- LEARNING
  - IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TRANSFER
“BEST” PRACTICES

• CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT
  • SURVEYS, TOWN MEETINGS, FOCUS GROUPS, YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

• COLLABORATION IN FUNDRAISING
  • YOUTH PROGRAMS, HEALTH

• NETWORKING AND CONNECTING
  • INFORMAL AND FORMAL

• PARTNERSHIPS
  • PUBLIC-PRIVATE (E.G. PROPOSALS)

• EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• ESTABLISH FORMALIZED STRUCTURE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE WITH CORE FUNDING SUPPORT

• MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND NETWORKING TO SUPPORT LOCAL LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS